

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

**Addressing Unsafe Sleeping Practices and Shaken Baby Head Trauma in  
Los Angeles County**

For the past year and a half, the Inter-Agency Council on Abuse and Neglect has sponsored a task force in partnership with the Board of Supervisors to address the staggering number of infants who die in the County of Los Angeles (County) before the age of one year as a result of unsafe sleeping practices. According to the Los Angeles County Coroner, at least 140 infants have died in the last two years due to unsafe sleeping practices. This tragedy is completely preventable.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Knabe on August 16, 2011 to develop a two-year pilot program at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center that addresses unsafe sleeping practices and educates parents on the consequences of shaking infants.

The Department of Health Services has begun implementation of the pilot project at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center by providing education about safe sleep practices and protocols to staff, parents and guardians. The Chief Executive Officer prepared a report to the Board of Supervisors dated December 16, 2011 which identifies the need for a budget of \$41,000 to complete the two-year pilot.

On November 15, 2010, the First 5 Los Angeles Board of Commissioners approved a two-year safe-sleeping campaign aimed at reducing the number of infant

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2012**  
**PAGE 2**

deaths by raising awareness and practices of safe sleeping through public education. First 5 Los Angeles should work closely with the County of Los Angeles and the Inter-Agency Council on Abuse and Neglect on the development of the pilot project at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** send a formal request to the First 5 Los Angeles Commission to consider an allocation of \$41,000 to support the pilot project at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center that will engage nurses and social workers in training new parents concerning safe sleeping practices and shaken baby syndrome.

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